



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10**

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OFFICE OF
ECOSYSTEMS, TRIBAL AND
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

November 29, 2010

John Goll, Regional Director
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement
3801 Centerpoint Drive, Suite 500
Anchorage, Alaska 99503-5820

Re: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Comments on the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement (BOEMRE) Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Chukchi Sea Lease Sale 193, EPA Project # 05-049-MMS

Dear Mr. Goll:

We have reviewed BOEMRE's Draft Supplemental EIS for Chukchi Sea Lease Sale 193. Our review of the EIS was conducted in accordance with our responsibilities under National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act. Section 309 specifically directs the EPA to review and comment in writing on the environmental impacts associated with all major federal actions. Under our Section 309 authority, our review of the EIS considers the expected environmental impacts as well as the adequacy of the EIS in meeting procedural and public disclosure requirements of NEPA.

EPA recognizes that the limited scope of the EIS (evaluation of natural gas development and production, and missing or incomplete information and cost) is in response to the U.S. District Court, District of Alaska order. This order directed BOEMRE to address these deficiencies identified in the initial EIS.

We believe that BOEMRE has produced a succinct document that clearly addresses these deficiencies. We are particularly pleased with the methodical and understandable analysis of incomplete or missing information in Appendix A. We also believe the process employed by your agency fully meets the intent of the Council of Environmental Quality's requirements for such situations. Additionally, the analysis of potential impacts from possible gas exploration, development and production is quite thorough, with clear indication of relatively minor impacts (with the potential exception of unknown archeological resources) from such activities.

Based on our review and, in part due to the limited scope of the analysis, we have assigned a rating of LO (Lack of Objection) to this EIS. A summary of our rating system is enclosed.

If you have any questions concerning our rating, please contact Jennifer Curtis of my staff in Anchorage at 907-271-6324 or by email at curtis.jennifer@epa.gov. Thank you for the opportunity to review this EIS.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Christine B. Reichgott". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Christine" and last name "Reichgott" clearly legible.

Christine B. Reichgott, Manager
Environmental Review and Sediment Management Unit

Enclosure

